



# Diversity Café

## THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL

## Black History Month

### Test Your Knowledge - Black History Month

1. What was the first African-American car manufacturer in 1916?
2. What service did the first African-American female millionaire, Madam C.J. Walker, provide?
3. What is the name of the first African-American woman to go into space?

(Answers below)

### Café News

- **Team DPW Dragon Boat** recently conducted their 2012 recruitment campaign and is currently preparing for its first race of the year. For more information, visit [www.teamdpw.org](http://www.teamdpw.org) or contact Nathan Salazar at (626) 458-7039.
- **The Arab-American Association of Engineers and Architects** will launch its first event of 2012 with a luncheon seminar on **February 23, 2012** at 11:30 a.m. at Wahib's Middle Eastern Restaurant. Deputy Director Diego Cadena, and Assistant Division Engineer Phil Doudar will give a presentation on the "L.A. Countywide Water Quality Funding Initiative." Contact Gus Nakhoul at (626) 459-3124 for more information.
- **Public Works Women's Leadership Council (PWWLC)** held its general meeting earlier this month to outline its 2012 projects, which include 'Mission Possible,' the PWWLC Scholarships, Ambassador Outreach, and a new outreach program to area schools to encourage students to seek career opportunities in engineering. For more information or to participate in a project, contact Christie Smith at (626) 458-4016.

## February Café Special

February is "Black History Month," a time to commemorate and celebrate the past and present achievements of African Americans. The celebration began in 1926 when noted historian and founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Dr. Carter Woodson, initiated "Negro History Week." Dr. Woodson chose the second week of February as it included the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass.

In 1976, President Gerald Ford extended the observance to the entire month of February and called upon the public to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history." The Association for the Study of African American Life and History, as it's known today, continues to promote and preserve black history and culture year-round.

This month, the Public Works Black History Committee will celebrate African American History Month with a luncheon in the Alhambra Headquarters Conference Rooms on Wednesday, **February 22**. The event will feature a presentation on "Historical Black Towns" and will include soul food, entertainment and music. Contact Elmer Jacobs at (626) 458-2592 for details.

During the luncheon, the Committee will present its 2012 DPW Black History Scholarship Fund awards. The annual awards are provided in support of the Committee's mission to promote education, imagination, and harmony through diversity. The scholarships are available to Public Works student workers and the Committee is seeking contributions to help fund them. For more information, contact Marilyn Lee at (626) 458-7003 or Clarice Nash at (626) 458-2363 by **February 21**. Contributions are tax-deductible.

### Café Quote of the Month

*"Defining myself, as opposed to being defined by others, is one of the most difficult challenges I face."* -- Carol Moseley Braun

### Diversity Calendar

The LA County Compton Library, the AC Bilbrew Library, and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Library will feature special programs to celebrate Black History Month during February. The Black Resource Center at the AC Bilbrew Library supports research on the social, historical, musical, and cultural aspects unique to the "Black Experience." For more details, visit [www.colapublib.org/calendar/events](http://www.colapublib.org/calendar/events).

Be part of the Iranian New Year "Nowruz" celebrations at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art on **March 18, 2012** from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Contact [www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org) for more information.

By Flora Wieggers, DPW Diversity Manager (626) 458-5193